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News From MAIENstreet

A Neighborhood Newsletter From Councilman Brian Maienschein



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Maienschein Welcomes Home Owners of First House Rebuilt Following Fire

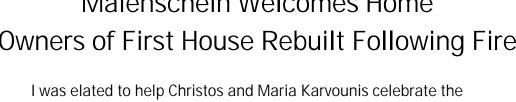
completion of their new home at a dedication ceremony on Friday, March 19, 2004. The Karvounises home is the first residence to be rebuilt following the Cedar fire that destroyed or damaged 345 homes in Scripps Ranch five months ago.

At the dedication event, I was joined by Marc Sorensen, president of the Scripps Ranch Civic Association (SRCA), and Tim Kassen, vice president of New Horizon Builders, the company that built the new home.

Also on hand to help the Karvounises celebrate were their two children and two granddaughters. The couple was presented with a congratulatory gift from the Civic Association - a welcome mat for their front porch.

It was wonderful to see the Karvounises moving back in. As excited as I am, I'll be even happier when I see all the remaining homes built.

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Councilmember Maienschein dedicated the first house rebuilt following the Cedar Fire. He is joined by the owners, Christos and Maria Karvounis, the couple's two grandchildren and Marc Sorensen, president of the Scripps Ranch Civic Association. Photo courtesty of the SRCA Newsletter.



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The Karvounises spent the first few days following the dedication celebration moving furniture and appliances into their one-story home on Handrich Drive. The new residence, at 1,550 square feet, is similar to the original 1,350-square-foot home. The Karvounises decided to increase the square footage by enlarging their master bedroom. They also added a covered patio to their backyard.

Maria Karvounis said she is looking forward to spending summer evenings enjoying her new patio. "We're excited to be back home," Mrs. Karvounis said. "I hope it's an inspiration for everybody else. It will be even nicer when the other homes here are rebuilt."

The home was finished in time for the couple's 39th wedding anniversary.

"Part of the reason they got done so quickly was that we could devote time early to them," said Kassen, of New Horizon Builders. "And they made decisions. They didn't say, 'We'll get back to you in two weeks.' "

As of early April, 32 building permits have been issued by the City's development services department to rebuild destroyed homes in Scripps Ranch. At least a half dozen homes are under construction.

To help coordinate the rebuilding effort, I am working with the Civic Association to sponsor a program called Builders Working in Cooperation (BWIC). Representatives from the 27 companies rebuilding homes in Scripps Ranch will meet periodically to discuss issues that affect the community, such as traffic routes for construction vehicles. I want this program to help ensure the rebuilding effort is handled with as little disruption as possible.

Maienschein opens Camino Santa Fe

On Thursday, March 18, community leaders from Mira Mesa, along with representatives from H.G. Fenton Co. and Hanson Aggregates, joined me to celebrate the grand opening of the extension of Camino Santa Fe between Trade Street and Flanders Drive.



Councilmember Maienschein celebrates opening of Camino Santa Fe with members of the Mira Mesa Town Council and Mira Mesa Planning Group.

This new six-lane road will accommodate more than 20,000 average daily trips (ADTs). It will also reduce traffic on Mira Mesa Boulevard, west of Camino Santa Fe, by 13,000 ADTs. Most importantly, this \$12 million road was completed at NO cost to San Diego taxpayers.

Since coming into office, I have been working hard with the community and business leaders to provide a long-term solution to the traffic congestion in this area.

The opening of this stretch of roadway is an important step toward alleviating congestion in Mira Mesa.



Maienschein Works to Improve Safety in School Zones

Traffic safety around some of Rancho Bernardo's busiest schools is expected to improve thanks to several measures scheduled to be implemented following direction from my office.

Several months ago, I teamed up with Anne Le Reverand and Meera Varigonda, both active members of the Rancho Bernardo community, to find creative solutions to the severe traffic congestion that converges upon Rancho Bernardo High School, Bernardo Heights Middle School and Turtleback Elementary School every day at 7:00 am and 3:00 pm.

Anne and Meera are both parents of students who attend these schools and have expressed frustration at the difficulty of ensuring that their kids reach school safely. They came to my office to seek help in making changes to the current traffic patterns that make it unsafe for students to walk to school.

I immediately began looking for ways to not only relieve congestion around these schools, but more importantly to ensure the safety of students that walk to school. I'm really pleased to have been able to identify some solutions.

Some of the changes that I have recommended include the installation of a stop sign at the intersection of Maturin and Turtleback Road, a left turn only signal on Avenida Venusto at the intersection of Pomerado Road, several additional ladder crosswalks, new signage and red curbing. These improvements will be installed within approximately 60 days.

Maienschein Hosts Mental Health Nights for Fire Victims

I am pleased to share with you that more than 75 fire victims attended the first two Mental Health Nights on March 16 and April 12. The Mental Health Nights are a series of programs I have sponsored in cooperation with the Scripps Ranch Civic Association and Alliant International University. The first two programs offered coping strategies for families and couples dealing with change in the aftermath of the Cedar Fire.

Please join me for the next Mental Health Night on Monday, May 10 at the Scripps Ranch Library. Alliant professor Richard Gevirtz will present the program titled "Stress Management in Stressful Times."

Special thanks to Fillippi's Pizza Grotto for donating pizza and drinks for dinner at the March event and Pat & Oscar's for providing the meal on April 12. I would also like to thank Scripps Ranch resident Mary Handfelt for volunteering to coordinate child care on April 12. Child care will also be available at the May 10 event.



Councilmember Maienschein introduces Dr. Neil Ribner at the Mental Health Night on March 16.



A Neighborhood Newsletter From Councilman Brian Maienschein

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It's a pleasure to serve you on the San Diego City Council!